sideration of the Government, keeping in view the fact that the term of office of the present incumbent was coming to an end on 12-10-1987, an *ad hoc* extention of the term for a period of two months was given to him in accordance with the established procedures and aproval of appropriate authority pending a decision on his continued appointment or appointment of his successor.

In regard to P. S. Jain Group, the Bank has indicated that it has filed suits for Rs. 902.87 lakhs. It has also compromised/decreed suits for Rs 605.57 lakhs in which recoveries are being made as per the decrees—although some instalments are reported to be overdue, Bank has indicated that it has instructed its brances to seek evecution of the decrees wherever instalments fall overdue beyond the permissible limits. Criminal cases launched by the Central Bureau of investigation in the matter of supply of truck chassies to fictitious persons at Jullundhar involving P. S. Jain Group, are still pending in courts.

Punjab and Sind Bank has reported that out of 56 premises in Delhi and 19 permises in Bombay taken by it for its offices, only 4 belong to P.S. Jain Group. Grant of loans while taking up premises is reported to be a common feature in cases of leasing of premises. The Bank has reported that as per their information their landlords of Asaf Ali Road Branch are not related to P. S. Jain Group

In regard to the report about the alleged fraudulent affidavit filed by Shri A. S. Bagga with NOIDA authorities, it has been clarified by Shri Bagga that he had signed the said affidavit in his capacity as Kartha of Autar Singh and Sons (HUF) and there was no false statement made in the said affidavit.

Sale of Golconda Diamond in Geneva

3329. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Times of India on the 19th November, 1987 to the effect that the Golconda diamonds, once part of the treasure of the Maharajas of Indore were sold by Christies on Thursday night in Geneva to an unidentified dealer for $2.46 million;

(b) if so, how the said diamonds ment out of the country and what is the extent of loss in foreign exchange on this account and whether the FERA rules were violated; and

(c) what action Government are contemplating in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rise in Copper Prices

3330. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation on behalf of small industries has met him and submitted a memorandum on steep rise in the prices of copper from Rs. 48 to Rs. 67 a Kg. in just eight months and whether this unprecedented and sudden rise had affected SSI units and upset the market potential; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps have been taken by the Central Government to tide over the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from various copper users, including SSI National Bodies Joint Committee seeking reduction in import duty, taking into account the increase in copper prices. The matter is under consideration.